

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9191

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CDES

SUBJECT: NEWSMAN'S REPORT ON FINDING REMAINS OF

MICHAEL ROCKEFELLER

REF: BONN 17401

1. PETER KNIPS VISITED EMBASSY TODAY TO REPORT THAT HE HAS RELEASED STORY, PHOTOS AND FILM ON FINDING THE ROCKEFELLER REMAINS TO ASSOCIATED PRESS, FOR RELEASE AT MIDNIGHT TUESDAY. CBS, THE GERMAN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY BUNTE ILLUSTRIERTE, THE SWISS SCHWEIZER ILLUSTRIERTE AND THE MILAN MAGAZINE EPOCHA WILL REPORTEDLY USE HIS MATERIAL.

2. KNIPS PLANS TO TRAVEL TO TAHITI DECEMBER 12 AND RETURN GERMANY JANUARY 7. HE WILL BE AT THE SAN FRANCISCO HILTON DECEMBER 13-14.

3. KNIPS ARTICLE, COPY OF WHICH HE GAVE TO US, SAYS ROCKEFELLER SWAM FROM HIS DISABLED BOAT TO THE COAST OF THE ARAFENA SEA. YEARS LATER, STORY CONTINUES, A MISSIONARY VISITING THE VILLAGE OF OTJANEP FOUND A PAIR OF METAL EYE GLASSES IN THE HUT OF THE CHIEF AJAM. RE-CALLING ROCKEFELLER, THE PRIEST PRESSED AJAM FOR AN

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EXPLANATION, AND THE STORY EMERGED. ROCKEFELLER HAD

REACHED THE COAST AND MADE HIS WAY THROUGH A MANGROVE FOREST. HE MUST HAVE HEARD DRUMS AND WENT TOWARD THE SOUND, WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE FROM A CEREMONY IN OTJANEP MOURNING THE DEATH TWO YEARS EARLIER OF SOME TRIBESMEN, INCLUDING SONS OF AJAM, WHO WERE KILLED BY DUTCH POLICE BECAUSE OF CANNIBALISM. ROCKEFELLER WAS KILLED BY THE TRIBESMEN AND HIS BODY COOKED AND EATEN.

4. ARTICLE DOES NOT NAME FATHER KAMP AS SOURCE. IN CONVERSATION, KNIPS SAID KAMP TOLD HIM HE HAD SENT THE EYE-GLASSES TO THE ROCKEFELLER FAMILY YEARS AGO. KNIPS SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF HEADS HANGING IN THE MEN'S HUT IN THE VILLAGE, ONE OF WHICH HE BELIEVED TO BE ROCKEFELLER'S AND WHICH APPEARED TO HIM TO BE "EUROPEAN." HE SAID HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO PHOTOGRAPH IT BECAUSE THE TRIBESMEN OBJECTED. HE DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE TEETH FOR FILLINGS. HE SAID BONES IN THE VILLAGE APPEARED TO BE FROM A NUMBER OF HUMAN BEINGS AND WERE NOT REALLY IDENTIFIABLE.

5. ASSOCIATED PRESS BONN QUERIED US TODAY CONCERNING KNIPS' REPORT. AP SAID KNIPS TOLD IT HE HAD MADE A STATEMENT TO THE BANGKOK EMBASSY ON HIS FINDINGS, THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE BONN EMBASSY AFTER HIS RETURN AND THAT IT HAD ASKED HIM NOT TO TALK TO THE PRESS ABOUT THE STORY. PRESS ATTACHE CONFIRMED THAT KNIPS HAD MADE A STATEMENT IN BANGKOK, SAID THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH KNIPS TO VERIFY HIS RETURN BUT THAT WE HAD NOT ASKED HIM NOT TO TALK TO THE PRESS. RATHER, PRESS ATTACHE SAID, KNIPS HAD TOLD US HE HAD RECEIVED CALLS FROM THE PRESS, BUT HAD NOT RESPONDED BECAUSE, BY HIS ACCOUNT, HE HAD NOT WANTED THE ROCKEFELLER FAMILY TO HEAR OF HIS FINDINGS FIRST FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS. AP ASKED WHETHER BONN OR BANGKOK EMBASSIES HAD UNDERTAKEN ANY EFFORTS TO VERIFY STORY. PRESS ATTACHE POINTED OUT NEW GUINEA WAS NOT IN JURISDICTION OF EITHER EMBASSY AND THAT QUESTIONS PERHAPS WOULD BE BETTER ADDRESSED TO DEPARTMENT.

HILLENBRAND

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